

What we claim is:

1. A healthcare management system, comprising: a plurality of user terminals;

an application layer coupled to the user
5 terminals and running a plurality of healthcare related application programs;

a repository for holding patient data, the repository storing patient identification data and clinical data separately, whereby clinical data may be retrieved with
10 or without the patient identification data to which it relates;

a data access layer arranged between the application layer and the repository for retrieving data from the repository or one of a plurality of further
15 databases external to the system, the data access layer including information regarding the location of data required by the application programs.

2. A healthcare management system according to claim 1, wherein the data access layer comprises a query processor
20 which receives requests for data from the application layer and includes means for retrieving a document describing where to find the data requested and means for retrieving that data and passing it to the application layer.

3. A healthcare management system according to claim 2, wherein the document describing where to find requested data
25 also describes the format of that data.

4. A healthcare management system according to claim 1, wherein the data access layer comprises data access objects.

5. A healthcare system according to claim 1, wherein the application later models patients as entities owning health track entities.

6. A healthcare system according to claim 5, wherein
5 health track entities have associated activities.

7. A healthcare system according to claim 5, wherein application logic in the application layer is implemented using enterprise Java beans.

8. A healthcare system according to claim 7, wherein the
10 enterprise Java beans include session beans for implementing session specific logic.

9. A healthcare system according to claim 1, wherein each of the user terminals includes a browser.

10. A healthcare system according to claim 9, wherein the
15 terminals are fat client terminals.

11. A healthcare system according to claim 9, wherein the terminals are thin client terminals.

12. A healthcare management system comprising a computer network for communicating between a plurality of user
20 terminals and an application system for running a plurality of application programs, the application system including a database storing clinical data and related patient data, and an interface to a plurality of further data stores each containing patient related information; the communications
25 network linking medical practitioners, healthcare administrators, patients and educational establishments and/or students, whereby each have access at least to clinical data stored in the database.

13. A healthcare management system according to claim 12, wherein the patients and medical practitioners further have access to some or all of the related patient data stored in the database.

5 14. A healthcare management system according to claim 12, wherein the application programs include a program for giving medical practitioners medical options based on patient information entered by the practitioner.

10 15. A healthcare management system according to claim 12, wherein the application programs include a program for recording patient medical history.

15 16. A healthcare management system according to any of claim 12, wherein the application programs include a program for requesting laboratory test data and the communications network includes a link with a laboratory to which a laboratory test request may be sent.

20 17. A healthcare management system according to any of claims 12, wherein the application programs include a medication administration program for recording the medication to be delivered to a given patient and recording the history of dosage administration.

18. A healthcare management system according to any of claims 12, wherein the application programs include an interactive training module.

25 19. A healthcare management according to claim 14, wherein the medical opinion programs interacts with a neural network to support the practitioner's decision making process.

30 20. A healthcare management system according to claim 18, wherein the neural network has a first interface comprising a practitioner guide.

